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of snipe, ducks and upland geese, all of which are remarkably tame and are very good to eat. The field would yield as good results to the ornithologist as to the botanist.

APIA, SAMOA, May 20, 1888.

### *Cheilanthes vestita*, Sw., on New York Island.

The eastern range in the United States of the genus *Cheilanthes*, Sw., was extended to the Hudson and beyond by Prof. Eaton from a report of the collection of *C. vestita*, (Spreng.), Sw., by W. W. Denslow, in "clefts of rocks, island of New York," (*vide* Gray's Manual, p. 659). This collection was made over twenty years ago, somewhere on "Washington Heights," but the exact station seems to be nowhere recorded. I have searched in vain for any mention of a rediscovery of this station, and there has been some fear that this rare fern had become totally extinct on Manhattan Island. It was, therefore, with especial gratification that I found it, on the afternoon of July 15th, upon the summit of the rocky ridge west of the Kingsbridge Road, about on a line, I judge, with the future 195th Street. The bluff at this point is too steep to be climbed with safety, but may be readily ascended farther north by a path just beyond a little white frame building close to the road, called "Beck's Inwood House." The exact station is a number of rods south of the head of this path, near a rounded expanse of naked rock which forms the brow of the bluff at that point. Eight or ten plants were found within a space of two yards, and a rod or so away there is a scattering cluster of three or four more. They are growing in very thin soil, in shallow hollows (scarcely clefts) of the rock. Most of the fronds are of quite moderate size, only three or four inches in length, the largest under six, exclusive of the stipe. The agreement of the specimens collected (three fronds only!) with the description and figure in Gray's Manual is very close, except that the scattered hairs are whitish in color rather than rusty, and, though the longer ones are discernibly articulated, they are not "prominently" so. Increased age, however, will doubtless bring the fern into conformity with Prof. Eaton's description in these respects also. The only other fern noticed in the immediate neighborhood was *Asplenium platyneuron*, (L.), BSP., (= *A.*

*ebeneum*, Ait.), which is frequent along the same ridge farther to the south. The most striking feature of the vegetation near the *Cheilanthes* station is the vigorous abundance of *Opuntia vulgaris*, Haw. I also found, close by, *Asclepias verticillata*, L., which I have not detected anywhere else on the island.

E. E. STERNS.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I learn that Judge Addison Brown detected the plant during the interval between Denslow's collection and mine. He says, in a note dated July 25th: "I suspect the location of your specimens is the same that I found, though I do not remember 'Beck's Inwood House.' My location was *near* the *top* of the high ridge, looking west, and about one-fourth mile to the south of the Inwood railroad station. When passing last, in haste, a year or two ago, I missed it." This indicates clearly *two* stations, as mine has an *eastern* exposure, and so had Denslow's, as appears from the ticket on his specimens in the Columbia College Herbarium. E. E. S.

### Abnormal Ash Leaves.

A single tree of the green ash (*Fraxinus viridis*, Michx. f.), bore last year a large number of abnormal leaves. Instead of the ordinary three pairs of lateral leaflets and the single one at the top, many of the leaves had two pairs of leaflets in place of the lower pair; others developed two pairs in place of the second pair, and in others the leaf was normal, excepting one additional leaflet at one or the other of the pairs of leaflets. In order to arrive at an idea of the prevailing abnormal forms, one hundred leaves were gathered from various branches of the tree and examined, with the following tabulated results:

Extra pair at 1st and 2d nodes.	Extra pair at 1st node.	Extra pair at 1st and one extra at 2d node.	Extra pair at 2d and one extra at 1st node.	One extra at 1st and at 2d node.	One extra at 1st node.	One extra at 2d node.
15	19	20	7	7	18	14

It will be seen that the larger number have one or two extra leaflets at the basal pair. The abnormality here indicated would have been passed without comment had it been common to all